

Having, thus, described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A fluid containment apparatus for use during removal of a spin-on fluid filter from a substrate, said apparatus comprising a boot having a substantially cylindrical boot body, said body including:
  - a narrow portion for placement closely surrounding a portion of said filter;
  - a wide portion adapted to form an annular pocket when said boot is placed surrounding said filter; and
  - an absorbent member for placement in said annular pocket, for absorbing spillage from said filter when said filter is removed from said substrate.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member comprises a pad comprising an absorbent material selected from the group consisting of cellulose and melt-blown polypropylene.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said annular pocket is formed between said constricted portion and said flared portion of said boot body.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said annular pocket is formed between said wide portion of said boot body and said filter.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the absorbent member is disposable and further wherein the boot is cleanable and re-usable.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an extended contact area is provided, inside of the constricted portion of the boot body, for contacting an exterior of a fluid filter, said extended contact area being at least one quarter of the length of said boot body.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member is in the form of a substantially annular disk adapted to fit into said pocket of said boot body.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said boot body comprises a material selected from the group consisting of vinyl polymers, urethanes, oil-tolerant elastomers, and mixtures thereof.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member is in the form of a substantially flat section of material, which is manually bendable into a cylindrical shape for placement in said pocket of the boot body.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said fluid filter is an oil filter.

11. A method of manufacturing a fluid containment apparatus for removing a spin-on fluid filter from a substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) dipping a mandrel into a liquid plastic material to form a layer of liquid plastic material thereon, said mandrel being in the shape of a hollow annular cylinder having an outer cylindrical surface, and inner cylindrical surface, and an end ring-shaped surface, such that a layer of liquified plastic material is formed on said outer cylindrical surface, said inner cylindrical surface, and said end ring-shaped surface,
- b) solidifying said layer of plastic material on said mandrel,
- c) removing said solidified plastic material from said mandrel, thereby providing a cylindrical plastic member having an inner cylindrical portion, an outer cylindrical portion, and a hollow annular pocket between said inner and outer portions, said hollow pocket being closed on one end of the cylindrical plastic member and open on another end of the cylindrical plastic member, and
- d) inserting an material in said hollow pocket capable of absorbing fluid from said filter.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said plastic material is a thermoplastic.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said thermoplastic is a vinyl polymer.

14. A method of minimizing fluid spillage during removal of a fluid filter from a substrate, comprising the steps of:

- a) slidably placing a substantially cylindrical fluid containment apparatus around a cylindrical fluid filter, said fluid containment apparatus comprising an absorbent member;
- b) sliding the fluid containment apparatus along the filter towards a substrate on which the filter is mounted, until part of the apparatus contacts the substrate;
- c) rotating the filter to begin unscrewing it from the substrate, whereby some fluid spills forth from the filter as spillage proximate the substrate, said absorbent member absorbing at least part of said spillage; and
- d) removing the filter from the substrate.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the fluid containment apparatus is rotated with the filter, such that the absorbent member wipes the substrate.